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**Health Care & Wellness Committee**

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**HB 1071**

**Brief Description:** Concerning advanced registered nurse practitioners.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Green, Morrell, Dickerson and Kenney.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Grants specific authority to advanced registered nurse practitioners, working in mental health care, to recommend and provide certain treatment.

**Hearing Date:** 1/22/09

**Staff:** Dave Knutson (786-7146)

**Background:**

Advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs) are registered nurses with additional formal specialized training in areas such as pediatrics, midwifery, geriatrics, anesthesiology, and psychiatry. ARNPs function more independently than registered nurses and assume primary responsibility and accountability for care of their patients. An ARNP can examine patients and establish medical diagnoses, admit patients to health care facilities, order and interpret lab tests, implement a plan of care for patients, prescribe medications and refer clients to other health care practitioners or facilities.

The Washington Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission recognizes a specialty designation for psychiatric nurse practitioners or clinical specialists in psychiatric-mental health nursing.

**Summary of Bill:**

Advanced registered nurse practitioners are specifically added to the list of mental health professionals who can recommend and provide certain mental health treatment.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.